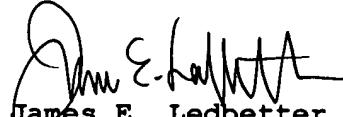


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the claims to correspond to the Article 19 amendment, pursuant to MPEP 1893.01(a) (2), second paragraph. Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

Date: October 6, 2004

JEL/ejw

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L9289.04165

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.

Suite 850

1615 L Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: (202) 785-0100

Faxsimile: (202) 408-5200